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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/917,360	07/27/2001	David A. Kraft	A148 1603	9869

112 7590 01/25/2006

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EXAMINER

RHEE, JANE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1745

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

25.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/917,360

Applicant(s)

KRAFT ET AL.

Examiner

Jane Rhee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 27,30-33,36-42,44-47 and 49-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 27,30-33,36-42,44-47 and 49-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Rejections Withdrawn

1. The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 27,30,36,42,44,51 unpatentable over MacLaine et al. and Webster's New World Dictionary in view of Pacione has been withdrawn due to applicant's arguments filed on 11/4/2005.
2. The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 31,33 unpatentable over MacLaine et al. and Webster's New World Dictionary in view of Ehrhart et al. has been withdrawn due to applicant's arguments filed on 11/4/2005.

Rejections Repeated

3. The 35 U.S.C. 112 2nd paragraph rejection of claims 27,36,48 has been repeated for the reasons previously stated in office action 2/8/2005.

New Rejections

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 27,31-33,40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Karzmer (4666539).

As to claims 27 and 40, Karzmer discloses comprising two resilient sheet elements having substantially the same structure (figure 7 number S), each element comprising a first major surface and a second major surface (figure 7 number S), and a

gluing surface interposed between the first major surface and the second major surface (col. 4 lines 45-49), the gluing surfaces of the two elements being adjacent (figure 7 number S), and an adhesive interposed between the gluing surfaces (col. 4 lines 45-49), and a seamless resilient wear layer that covers substantially the entire surface covering, including the two elements and the seam formed by the adjacent gluing surfaces and the adhesive (figure 7 number 27). As to claims 31-33, Karzmer discloses that the adhesive is a radiation curable, UV curable adhesive such as cyanoacrylate (col. 4 lines 42).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 30,36,41,44 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karzmer in view of Marquez (6387013).

Karzmer discloses the surface covering described above. Karzmer teaches that the gluing surfaces and adhesive forms a seam (figure 7 number S). Karzmer fail to disclose that the flooring sheet is in the form of a roll wherein the seam is perpendicular or parallel to the roll. Karzmer however teaches in figure 2 that the rubber layer initially comes in a roll. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in

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the art at the time applicant's invention was made to provide Karzmer with the flooring sheet in the form of a roll wherein the seam is either perpendicular or parallel to the roll considering that there are only two ways to roll the surface covering. Marquez teaches a rolled rubber flooring for the purpose of providing a compact storage structure (col. 4 lines 303-31).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time applicant's invention was made to provide Karzmer with the flooring sheet that is in the form of a roll wherein the seam is perpendicular or parallel to the roll in order to provide a compact storage structure as taught by Marquez.

6. Claims 37-39,42,45,49-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karzmer in view of Webster's new world dictionary.

Karzmer discloses the surface covering described above. Karzmer fail to disclose a scarf joint wherein no portion of the gluing surfaces is perpendicular to the first major surface.

Webster's new world dictionary teaches that scarf joints are made by notching, grooving, or otherwise cutting the ends of two pieces and fastening them so that they lap over and join firmly into one continuous piece (col. 2, definition of scarf²).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time applicant's invention was made to provide Karzmer with a scarf joint wherein no portion of the gluing surfaces is perpendicular to the first major surface since scarf joints are stronger joints than butt joints because of its larger bonding area.

Response to Arguments


7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 27,30-33,36-42,44-47,49-51 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jane Rhee whose telephone number is 571-272-1499. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jane Rhee
January 18, 2005



PATRICK JOSEPH RYAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER